

Water Efficiency Leader (WEL) Awards

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Water Efficiency Leader program?

The awards recognize those organizations and individuals who are *providing leadership and innovation in water efficient products and practices*. They are intended to help foster a nationwide ethic of water efficiency, as well as to inspire, motivate, and recognize efforts to improve water efficiency. This program will enable EPA to document “best practices”, share information, encourage an ethic of water efficiency, and create a network of water efficiency leaders.

What are the benefits of the Water Efficiency Leader program?

Award recipients will gain the opportunity to share case studies and best practices with other leaders, as well as national recognition for accomplishments via the EPA website and press releases. Additionally, they will receive the right to display certain promotional materials on their website and advertising stating that they have been recognized by EPA for their leadership in water efficient practices.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Applicants may be from anywhere in the United States.
- May be either self-nominated or nominated by a third party.
- Project start date must be within the past five years, and the project may be either ongoing or completed at the time of the application.

What are the categories of recognition?

The four categories are: Corporate/Industry, Organizations/Teams/Institutions, Government/Military, and Individuals.

What are the criteria for recognition?

Recognition will be given on the basis of persuasive community or organizational leadership in the area of water efficiency, originality and public purpose, global perspective and implications, and overall improvements in water efficiency.

Can I apply based on anticipated water savings?

Yes, however, actual results are preferred and applicants should be able to demonstrate the amount of water saved.

How do I apply?

Applicants can apply by submitting a brief one page (or less) summary of the water efficient program or practice they are nominating to Stephanie Thornton, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Mail Code 4101M, Washington, D.C. 20460. EPA may contact applicants for additional information where necessary.

How will I know when the application process is open?

EPA will announce the availability of the awards in the Federal Register, mailing our contacts, and posting on our website at www.epa.gov/ow/wel. The applications process will be open for approximately three weeks after the Federal Register Notice announcement.

What is the application deadline?

Applications must be postmarked no later than August 4, 2006.

How will I know if my application was received?

You will not receive notification that your application was received. You may contact Stephanie Thornton at thornton.stephanie@epa.gov or 202.564.0269 for confirmation.

Who will judge the applications?

EPA staff will conduct the first round of evaluation. Applications will then be forwarded to a panel of judges who are experts in water efficiency from a variety of sectors, such as academia, industry, and non-governmental organizations. The 2006 winners will serve as judges in the 2007 awards process.

How will the applications be judged?

Judges will individually evaluate and score the applications (based upon scoring criteria provided by EPA) and provide their recommendations to EPA within four weeks. EPA will then make the ultimate decision.

How many awards will be given?

There will be no predetermined number of winners in each category. Awards will be based solely on merit and EPA will recognize the top projects.

Is this program part of EPA's WaterSense initiative?

These awards are part of EPA's overall water efficiency efforts, a category under which WaterSense also falls.

Where can I obtain more information?

www.epa.gov/ow/wel

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